

*Read the passages and choose the best answer to the questions that follows them. You may use a dictionary.*

**Nearly all scientists agree that global warming is melting the world's largest glacial structures and causing water levels to rise. Researchers estimate that the earth's water levels particularly in seas and oceans, rise a fraction of an inch each year. If the ice caps continue to melt, the gulf stream could be affected.**

The term "glacial structures" most likely refers to which of the following?

- frozen tundra
- polar ice caps
- mountain ice and snow
- intercontinental glaciers
- frozen lakes

**The local library has requested a fifteen percent increase in its budget for next year. Without the additional funds, according to a library spokesperson, the library will not be able to expand its collection of literature. Many people say that before the budget is approved, the community should be allowed to vote on the use of the funds. Others oppose the increase because they argue that the growth of the local library will affect local merchants who sell books. If local merchants lose sales, they say, the town will lose tax revenues, and everyone will suffer.**

Based on the information in the passage, which of the following conclusions can be drawn?

- Local business owners do not support the library.
- The library wants to buy more books.
- The fifteen percent budgetary increase is relatively small.
- The fifteen percent budgetary increase is relatively high.
- The city's budget could be devastated because of a loss of revenue from local bookstores.

**Computer technology is advancing so quickly that computer users can hardly keep up without spending lots of money. When someone purchases a top-of-the-line computer, he can be sure that after only a few weeks, his new computer will no longer be cutting-edge. A computer that cost over a thousand dollars ten years ago would probably fetch only a few dollars at a garage sale today. Companies often stop providing tech support for programs that are only a few years old, making them even more impractical.**

Which of the following is the main idea of the passage?

- There is no point in buying a computer.
- Computers are smart investments for people hoping to resell them at a profit.
- Rapid advances in computer technology make it hard to stay up-to-date.
- The cost of computers does not equal the power of computers.
- It's best to shop for computers at garage sales.

Which of the following would be the best conclusion for the passage?

- People determined to stay up-to-date should be ready to spend quite a bit of money.
- Buying computers is largely impractical.
- People should purchase top-of-the-line computers if they can.
- Someone who wanted to open a computer store would make millions if he sold new technology at low prices.
- Someone insistent on buying a computer should expect to either spend a fortune or be stuck with inferior technology.